

Winter Texan Bible Study 2019 ~ Pastor Bill Waddell
Prophecies of Daniel, Lesson 2 ~ January 15, 2019

The Bible is most singly verified through fulfilled prophecy. Why study the Bible and obey the Bible exclusively? Because it is the only religious book that demonstrates itself to be of divine origin.

1. Daniel 7 is pure prophecy Dan. 7:1-7

All of it, for the most part, was future at the time Daniel wrote it. Where we sit in history today, 2500 years later, verses 1-7 have been fulfilled exactly and track with Daniel's prophecy in chapter two laying the 4 world dominating kingdoms that would arise before the second coming of Christ. After verse 7 we are looking into the future even today - the trajectory of this disturbing chapter based on what has been fulfilled already means that we should expect every bit of this to be fulfilled and that mostly literally.

2. Let's launch into this thing.

We are going to look at a detail that is the theme of this vision and theme of prophecy. What is that? It is the apex of the Scriptures and of all prophecies in them; it is the apex history and all things that God has done are a means to this end; it is the crowning of God's King and establishment of His eternal kingdom. And, no, the crucifixion of this King and His resurrection was not the apex of history or the Scriptures; those things were a means to an end. The end is His earthly reign; the means to get us there safely was His death and resurrection. We have known Him as the virgin born son of Mary, and the suffering Savior who alone can rescue us from sin, but He will be known forever in eternity as the King.

3. Dan. 7:13-14 - All prophecy of the Bible is aimed at this event, so let's understand some key points of it.

- Who is this "Son of Man"? The Bible answers this question: it is Jesus. He is referred to more than 80 times by this title in the New Testament; most of those times it is Jesus who is referring to Himself with this title.
- It is the title of His humility: born to a young Jewish girl in a stable and laid in a feed trough.
- It is the title of His exaltation: though He is that humble human, He is also the Sovereign God.
- He specifically uses this title when referring to His second coming: Matt. 16:27; Matt. 19:28; Matt. 25:31.
- He comes with the clouds – In the Old Testament, clouds frequently represented the presence or glory of God. It is also true in the New Testament: Rev. 1:7; I Thess. 4:17; Matt. 24:30; Matt. 25:31.
- He comes with Authority. It will not be a democracy; it will be an absolute monarchy. Psalm 2:2-6; Matt. 28:18; Heb. 2:8
- It is a literal earthly kingdom. The context of Daniel 7 is a series of world dominating kingdoms that literally and physically ruled or will rule the earth. Four Gentile powers to be followed by a 5th permanent, literal earthly, Jewish kingdom whose center will be Jerusalem.
- It will be forever - in juxtaposition to these earthly kingdoms, the one of the Son of Man will last forever
- Dan. 7:14, 18, 27
- What I didn't tell you was that the transition will not be a smooth one, it will be a hostile takeover. There will be much blood shed; the Usurper of Jesus' throne will not go quietly; it will be global war. Rev. 19:11-15
- Why so heavy handed? Understand, for Him to do this will mean He cannot just move against the symptoms of our world's disease, but the cause; radical, Omnipotent surgery only will remove the world's malignancy.

Again, the message of the Second Coming of Jesus and that which surrounds this dominates the Bible:

- Next to the subject of Faith in the New Testament, no subject is more discussed than the subject of the Second Coming of Jesus.
- For every mention of His first coming in the Old Testament, His second is mentioned 8 times.
- Jesus Himself referred to His Second Coming 21 times.
- We are told to be ready for it in the New Testament over 50 times.

Prophecies of Daniel, Part 2, continued:

4. We know the “who” part of this: Jesus is that King who is coming and will reign forever. The next question is “When?” - it is a question that Jesus’ disciples asked: Acts 1:6-7. This question has always been in the hearts of believers. It isn’t for us to know the timing of all this in the sense of dates. Nevertheless, there is much we can know that will go a long way to answering this “when?” question. God has given us many answers with regard to the timing of Jesus’ second coming in the Bible. For instance, we can know, first of all, that Jesus isn’t returning until after the rise of four world dominating kingdoms according to Dan. 2: Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome. Secondly, we can know that Jesus isn’t returning until after the final form of that final kingdom: Dan. 2:42, 44. Dan. 2 parallels Dan. 7 but uses different idioms: Dan. 7:1-7 – How many toes on the statue? How many horns on this final beast? Ten. In Rev. 13 we see that Rome has a resurrection as a political entity as well as it having a ruler who has a resurrection of sorts. The Kingdom of Christ follows the 4 Gentile world dominating empires, and it follows the final phase of that final empire, and it follows the final ruler of that final phase of that final empire! - the antichrist.

5. Let’s be introduced to this final king, the Antichrist: V. 8 VV. 20; 24 - This final ruler is referred to in several ways in the Book of Daniel: Ch. 7 “the little Horn speaking great things”; Ch. 8 “King of fierce countenance”; Ch. 9 “the prince that is to come”; Ch. 11 “the willful king”; Revelation 17 tells us that this king is one of these final 10, he pushes out three of the ten and becomes the head of the remaining 7. Revelation 6 we see him typified as a rider on a white horse carrying a bow with no arrows weird because what good is a bow without arrows? In Dan. 11:21 we are told this: “Flatteries - politics and propaganda. This guy is going to be politician par-excellence. Dan. 9 tells us that he will even broker peace in the middle east for the span of 7 years. He’s going to be a political genius, intellectual genius, and an oratorical genius: V. 8, V. 25, Rev. 13:5. He’s going to be a politician and problem solver, oratorical genius and also a military genius: Dan. 7:23. Once he gets power peaceably, he’s going to be anything but peaceful. Revelation 6 tells us that after the coming of this world leader, peace is removed from the earth so that once he’s done ¼ of the world’s population is dead through wars, famines and pestilence. Adding to his list: he’s going to be a commercial genius. Rev. 13 and 14 tell us that this king will devise an economic system by which no one can buy or sell unless they receive a mark on their forehead or hand. The sixth major characteristic of this man who will be known by the number 666, is that he is a religious genius: V. 25 “speaking words against the Most High”, II Thess. 2 “displaying himself as being God.”, Rev. 13 “Setting up his own image to be worshipped”. The seventh major characteristic of this king is his persecution of the Jews: Dan. 7:21; Rev. 13:7; Indications of Zech. 13:8-9 he kills 2/3s of the Jews in Israel. Thankfully, his time is limited: Dan. 7:25 - 3 ½ years; Dan. 12:7, 11; Rev. 12 says 42 months (the most documented time period in the entire Bible; the Bible has more to say about this small window of time than it does about Jesus’ first coming or about the 6-day creation or anything else.)

6. When will Jesus return? Not until the 4 Gentile kingdoms, not until the final form of the final kingdom, not until the final ruler of the final kingdom has come and carried out the final persecution of the Jews.